

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP XG (WALLACE, GEORGE)

SUBJECT GOVERNOR WALLACE VISIT TO PARIS

REF: STATE 239139

1. GOVERNOR WALLACE VISITED PARIS OCTOBER 22-24 ON THE NEXT TO LAST LEG OF HIS EUROPEAN TOUR.

2. IN RESPONSE TO GOVERNOR'S REQUESTS FOR MEETINGS WITH HIGH-LEVEL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, GOF OFFERED BREAKFAST APPOINTMENT WITH INTERIOR MINISTER MICHEL PONIATOWSKI AND LATE AFTERNOON MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24. GOVERNOR WALLACE WAS UNFORTUNATELY UNABLE TO ACCEPT BREAKFAST APPOINTMENT WITH PONIATOWSKI, WHO IS LEADER OF PRESIDENT'S INDEPENDENT REPUBLICAN PARTY AS WELL AS HIS CHIEF POLITICAL ADVISER AND STRATEGIST. TO MAKE SURE THAT GOVERNOR HAD EXPOSURE TO MEMBER OF CABINET CONCERNED WITH INTERNAL FRENCH MATTERS, EMBASSY MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR HIM TO SEE MICHEL D'ORNANO, MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND RESEARCH ON OCTOBER 23. THIS MEETING WAS FRIENDLY AND THE EXCHANGES WERE

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CONSIDERED USEFUL ON BOTH SIDES.

3. FOLLOWING LIGHT FRENCH PRESS CRITICISM OF THE LIMITED AMOUNT OF HIGH LEVEL ATTENTION TO THE GOVERNOR, FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES OFFERED TO SEE WALLACE ON THE EVENING OF OCTOBER 24, AND THE GOVERNOR DELAYED HIS DEPARTURE TO ACCEPT THE APPOINTMENT. HALF HOUR EXCHANGE FEATURED A DISCUSSION OF PREPCON II AND ITS SATISFACTORY WORK, ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN THE US, AND NEW YORK CITY FISCAL WOES. SAUVAGNARGUES DEPLORED ASSASSINATION OF TURKISH AMBASSADOR, WHICH HE FEARED MIGHT IMPACT ON CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS AND HIS HOPES FOR A PROFITABLE VISIT TO ANKARA IN EARLY NOVEMBER.

4. IN ADDITION TO DISCUSSIONS WITH SAUVAGNARGUES AND D'ORNANO REPRESENTING THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT, GOVERNOR WALLACE HAD THE FOLLOWING ENGAGEMENTS IN PARIS:

- OCTOBER 23: PRIVATE MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR AT THE EMBASSY CHANCERY, COUNTRY TEAM BRIEFING, AND LUNCHEON WITH MEMBERS OF GOVERNOR'S PARTY AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE.
- OCTOBER 24: GOVERNOR GAVE LUNCHEON ADDRESS TO OVERFLOW MEETING OF THE AMERICAN CLUB OF PARIS AND HAD SUCCESSFUL DISCUSSIONS WITH GROUP OF TOP-LEVEL FRENCH BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES.

5. COMMENT: GOVERNOR WALLACE WAS RELAXED, AND EXPRESSED FRIENDLY SENTIMENTS TOWARD FRANCE BOTH IN PRIVATE AND IN PUBLIC APPEARANCES THROUGHOUT HIS SHORT STAY.
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